

LIFE GROUP APPLICATION QUESTIONS

Philippians 1:12-18a

These questions are for the **October 13, 2024** message, “JOY IN CHRIST: unwavering confidence in uncertain times – Gospel Priority.” Please read the sermon passage (Philippians 1:12-18a) together out loud.

Passage Outline

The gospel advances...

1. ...because of difficult circumstances. (12-14)
 - a. The Apostle Paul wrote while he was imprisoned.
 - b. His imprisonment provided opportunity to share the Gospel to a captive audience.
 - c. His fellow-believers were emboldened when they saw the Gospel advancing, despite his imprisonment.
2. ...in spite of mixed motives. (15-17)
 - a. Some were preaching out of envy, or rivalry with Paul’s ministry.
 - b. Regardless of their motives, they were still preaching Christ.
3. ...producing real joy. (18a)
 - a. Paul’s response to the Gospel proclamation: “...and in that I rejoice.”

Life Group Discussion Questions

1. In Philippians 1:12-13, it seems that it was important to the Apostle Paul that people knew he had been imprisoned for Christ. Why do you think that was the case?
2. How could Paul’s imprisonment have given his fellow Christ-followers greater boldness to speak the Gospel without fear? (v. 14)
3. What kind of hardship might someone in our culture have to endure **because of** the Gospel? What kind of hardship might God use to pave the way **for** the Gospel?
4. Today, we might see those who preach the Gospel with impure motives as a threat to it. How could Paul have been at peace with that, to the degree that he even derived joy from it?
5. Scripture teaches that God is sovereign (Job 42:2, Matthew 10:29–31, Proverbs 19:21, etc.)—that His purposes will be accomplished in the world. How might understanding and believing that truth impact our anxiety level in daily life? In politics? In our families? In the Church?